

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6663**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1172

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 12, 2004

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Department of Child Protection Services.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Hinkle

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
X FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the Department of Child Protection Services and removes child protection service duties from the county offices of the Division of Family and Children.

The bill also states that records regarding a child whose death is determined to be a result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect are not confidential.

The bill also repeals statutes that require county offices of the Division of Family and Children to establish a local child protection service.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill creates the Department of Child Protection Services and removes child protection service duties from the county offices of the Division of Family and Children. The Governor is to appoint a director. The director is entitled to compensation set by the State Budget Agency. The director shall determine the best manner of organizing the Department.

The establishment of a Department of Child Protection Services and the statutory transfer of various functions and responsibilities of the Department will not necessarily represent a fiscal impact to the state. Any costs that might be incurred from a physical relocation of offices and any expenditures that could be reduced because of operational efficiencies will depend upon administrative action.

The bill transfers all employees of local, joint-county, or multiple-county child protection services to the

Department. It requires the state to recognize any service an employee provided before the effective date of this bill for calculation of benefits or retention points. The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) currently employs approximately 800 child protective services workers.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Family and Social Services Administration.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local Offices of Family and Children.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.